

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF
KANAWHA COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA, HELD AT THE COMMISSION
COURTROOM AT 409 VIRGINIA STREET EAST, CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA
THEREOF ON THE 14TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2023.**

**A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF KANAWHA COUNTY,
WEST VIRGINIA, WAS HELD ON THE 14TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2023, BEGINNING
AT 8:30 A.M.**

THE FOLLOWING MEMBER WAS PRESENT:

**W. KENT CARPER, PRESIDENT
BEN SALANGO, COMMISSIONER
LANCE WHEELER, COMMISSIONER**

AGENDA

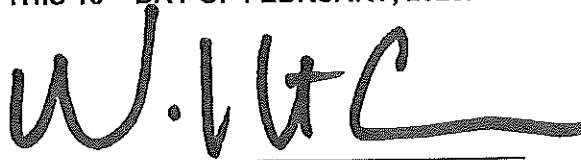
**Discussion regarding PEIA premium increase and effects on First Responders
West Virginia Deputy Sheriffs' Association - Paul O'Dell, State President
West Virginia Deputy Sheriff's Association – Adam Crawford, Secretary
West Virginia State Fraternal Order Police – Adam Crawford, Vice-President
Kanawha County Deputy Sheriffs' Association – Jeremy Yost, President
Professional Firefighters of West Virginia – Myron Boggess, President
West Virginia State Lodge Fraternal Order Police - Daren McNeil, State President**

Commissioner Carper stated the Commission asked the following representatives to come to hear about what is going on with PEIA. Commissioner Wheeler stated Bill 268 was trying to remove spouses from non-state employees' insurance coverage. The bill was clarified to that no one could understand if a spouse could be removed. Commissioner Wheeler stated the Commission is also still fighting the increase. We are still fighting to show how a non-state employee increase will cost. Chief Crawford stated that the word was getting out, and police officers were coming on board. Chief Crawford stated that we didn't know what the Legislature would do, and the big concern was the spouses and kids. Chief Crawford asked why the Legislature does not use its surplus money towards PEIA. Chief Crawford stated law enforcement plans to go to the Legislature asking them to protect us. Kim Fleck informed the Commission that the lowest increase is \$6 per month and the largest \$23. Commissioner Carper stated that the increase has already been approved. Commissioner Carper stated they could raise a lot of money off the backs of law enforcement and first responders and plan to raise it as much as possible. Commissioner Wheeler stated that the Legislature had it open at one point and wanted us, now they don't, and we need to defend our rights. Commissioner Carper stated that the spouses and the increase are two separate things. They are going to raise non-state more than they will the state employees. Chief, you need to set up some meetings and explain this. Chief Crawford stated that all four of us would be there until the last day because he knows things get snuck in at the last moment. Commissioner Wheeler stated the Commission needs you all to fight this with us; they will listen to you and your deputies more. Detective Adam Crawford asked how much the new increase is already approved. Kim Fleck stated they had not released the official increases, but her numbers are \$6-\$26, depending on the plan. Detective Crawford asked about the spouses remaining on the plan. Commissioner Wheeler stated the Legislature wrote an unclear bill, and we are working on fighting to make sure the language is crystal clear. We want to make sure they do not take away the choice of spouses being covered, stated Commissioner Wheeler. Detective Crawford informed the Commission that a Delegate informed him that the Kanawha County Deputies should not be on this plan. Commissioner Carper asked why the deputies and firefighters are being treated like this, not the State

police. Why, because they can, and it was just last month you all were heroes. Commissioner Carper stated they asked Kanawha County to come into the PEIA plan, and we had several meetings with them asking us and talking us into it. Now they say they don't want you on the plan. Commissioner Salango stated that is correct, there were many meetings discussing us joining PEIA. Daren McNiel informed the Commission that they have to protect our benefits to bring on new officers and retain current ones. We thought they would defend us, not defund us. Children are not growing up wanting to be police officers, and it's up to us to protect our rights and be a strong voice for law enforcement, stated Mr. McNiel. Commissioner Salango asked that they keep a list of those delegates who tells them that. Kim Fleck stated this year is 9%, and next year will be 13% for non-state employees. Commissioner Salango stated that even though we were invited in, now they don't want us in, and they will do what they can to get rid of us. Commissioner Carper said they did the same with other counties, including Cabell. We also met with the CCAWV they looked at our letter; they said they would do something, but Commissioner Carper is not counting on it.

THE KANAWHA COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING OF FEBRUARY 14, 2023, ADJOURNED AT 8:54 A.M. UNTIL THE 16TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2023.

THE FOREGOING MINUTES ARE APPROVED THIS 16TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2023.



COMMISSIONER



COMMISSIONER



COMMISSIONER


COUNTY ATTORNEY